



Feb. 16, 2006
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Case of Whooping Cough Confirmed on Cal Poly Campus

University Working Closely with Public Health to Prevent Spread

SAN LUIS OBISPO - A case of pertussis, commonly called whooping cough, has been confirmed on campus by the San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department.

Campus housing officials have moved the student, who was treated at Sierra Vista Hospital over the weekend, to a private apartment in Yosemite Hall while the student finishes his course of antibiotics, according to Cornel Morton, vice president for student affairs.

Residence hall staff are ensuring that the student receives meals, class work and appropriate attention, Morton added.

While whooping cough is a highly contagious disease, it is most threatening to young children and older adults. It typically responds well to antibiotics, according to Marina Perez, head of nursing for the Cal Poly Health Center .

In coordination with the health department, Cal Poly is taking a number of other actions to prevent spread of the disease:

- Notifying students housed in Sierra Madre, the dorm where the infected student lives, advising them in a community alert that lists symptoms and explains what to do if students think they may have been exposed
- Isolating 30 students in Sierra Madre Hall who were known to be in contact with the infected student
- Conducting a survey of other possible contacts, in accordance with public health department guidelines
- Sending letters to all students, faculty and staff who might have been exposed
- Sending a campuswide e-mail to inform students, faculty and staff of the situation and advising those who are displaying symptoms that are possibly related to the disease to call their personal physicians
- Sending letters to the parents of students in the affected residence halls

Anyone interested in more information on the disease and its treatment, including how to obtain vaccinations and antibiotics, can contact county health officials at (805) 781-5500.

Anyone interested in more information on pertussis-related actions on campus can contact director of housing Preston Allen at (805) 756-1226.

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